

(a) to (c) Yes Sir, there is a proposal for implementing a scheme 'Technology Mission for the Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern States including Sikkim'. The scheme has yet to be approved by the Government. The main objectives and functions of technology mission are integrated development of horticulture in the NE region through convergence, synergy and timely attention to all the links of production coupled with critical intervention for research, post harvest management and marketing, export and processing.

### **Rehabilitation of jute sector**

2665. SHRI GAYA SINGH:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Institute of Research on Jute and Allied Fibre Technology (NIRJAFT) has developed a plan to rehabilitate the jute sector, which is fighting a losing battle against the synthetic alternative; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the plan and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. The rehabilitation of jute sector is being looked after by the Nodal Ministry of Textiles. However, the National Institute of Jute and Allied Fibre Technology (NIRJAFT), Calcutta is a research institution engaged in research and development of technology for jute products and diversified uses of jute products, by-products and waste. The Institute has undertaken multi-disciplinary research programmes for value addition and diversification. A large number of products (for furnishing fabrics, knitted products, blankets and carpets) and packaging boxes for transport of fruits etc. have been developed by the Institute, which are now commercially available. The Institute is also paying special attention to decentralized and

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small scale sector, which has made significant inroads in production of diversified jute products during recent years. Composite and moulded products have found new applications of jute and jute wastes. Jute geo-textile has established its suitability for application in drainage, soil erosion control, canal lining and stabilization roads.

(b) Does not arise.

**Funds under Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations**

2666. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee headed by the Prime Minister recommended allocation of funds for the development of SCsSTs proportionate to their population in the year 1993;

(b) if so, indicate the action taken thereon by the Ministry of Agriculture for procuring funds proportion to the population of SCs/ STs for the above purpose during the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992—1997);

(c) if appropriate action is not taken, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of funds demanded by the Ministry for the said purpose, funds allocated and funds utilized during Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is primarily responsible for sustainable agriculture production. Through implementation of various schemes, the Department promotes agricultural development, supports soil and water conservation schemes towards agricultural expansion and consolidation, promotes expansion and strengthening of agricultural infrastructure. These activities benefit farmers of all categories including SCST. As the schemes are area specific and production oriented in nature, funds are not allocated on the basis of population of SCST. However,